

Message Text

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73

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 EB-11 COME-00

SCEM-02 INT-08 FPC-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SCI-06 NSF-04

CIEP-02 STR-08 DRC-01 /208 W
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R 261535Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5354

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD UNN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LE, XF

SUBJECT: LEBANESE PRESS IMPRESSIONS OF ALGIERS SUMMIT

1. ACCORDING USUALLY WELL-INFORMED LEBANESE PRESSMEN COVERING
CONFERENCE, ALGIERS SUMMIT DIFFERS FROM 1967 KHARTOUM CONFERENCE
IN ITS MODERATION AND PRAGMATIC APPROACH. KHARTOUM SUMMIT ENDED
WITH "NO NEGOTIATIONS, NO PEACE AND NO RECOGNITION" WHILE DOMI-
NATING THEME OF ALGIERS CONFERENCE IS "PEACE THRU DIPLOMATIC
EFFORTS". GRANTED, POSSIBLE RESUMPTION OF FIGHTING AND USE OF OIL
AS WEAPON ARE PRESENT AT ALGIERS, BUT THEY HAVE BEEN RELEGATED
TO BACKGROUND. FURTHERMORE HEADS OF STATE ATTENDING ALGIERS CON-
FERENCE ARE LOOKING AT POST SETTLEMENT ERA AND TAKING INTO
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CONSIDERATION CLOSE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL TIES WITH INDUSTRIAL

WEST.

2. PRIOR TO OPENING AND DURING EARLY STAGES OF FONMIN MEETING, A HARDENING OF POSITION WAS REPORTED BY LEBANESE JOURNALISTS, EMANATING ESPECIALLY FROM NON-CONFRONTATION STATES WHO CALLED FOR TIGHTENING OF OIL EMBARGO AND BELIEVED THAT ONLY ANOTHER ROUND OF HOSTILITIES COULD BRING ISRAEL TO ACCEPT EGYPTIAN-SYRIAN POSITION. HOWEVER, LATER PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT STATES MOST DIRECTLY INVOLVED, NAMELY EGYPT AND SYRIA, STRONGLY REAFFIRMED THEIR COMMITMENT TO TRYING PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS, AND WERE LEFT DECIDE TUNE OF CONFERENCE WHICH WAS DESCRIBED BY SOME REPORTERS AS "PEACE THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS WHILE PREPARING FOR WAR". THOSE REPORTED TAKE ADVOCATE HARDER MILITARY LINE (E.G., ALGERIA, SAUDI ARABIA AND PLO) DECIDED SIT BACK AND AWAIT COLLAPSE OF DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS DUE TO EXPECTED ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE

3. REPORTING ON PALESTINIAN QUESTION INDICATES THAT IT UNLIKELY PRESENT MAJOR PROBLEM SINCE PLO, IN AFTERMATH MOSCOW MEETING, AGREEABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN PEACE TALKS AND ARAB GOVTS. WISH HAVE PLO PRESENT, PERHAPS AS PART OF PALESTINIAN GOVT. IN EXICSGM IDEA OF INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATES ON WEST BANK AND GAZA ALSO REPORTED TO BE ACCEPTED BY CONSENSUS OF ARAB REPS.

4. OIL, AS WEAPON IS REPORTEDLY BEING LOOKED AT IN MORE PRAGMATIC LIGHT THAN DURING PRE-CONFERENCE ERA. OIL STATES HAVE INFORMALLY ADOPTED JOINT POSITION ON ADVISABILITY OF KEEPING OIL SEGRATED FROM POLITICS. THEY HAVE DECIDED LET THEIR RESPECTIVE OIL MINSTERS, RATHER THAN POLITICIANS, DECIDE IF, WHEN AND BY HOW MUCH OIL PRODUCTION SHOULD BE RESUMED. SPOKESMAN FOR "LARGE OIL PRODUCING STATE" DESCRIBED OIL AS ATOMIC BOMB WHICH CANJZST AND SHOULD NOT BE BRANDISHED OFTEN OR ALL THE TIME. PAPERS ON CONSEQUENCES AND EFFECTS OF OIL EMBARGO, DISCUSSING TOPICS RANGING FROM ECONOMIC ISSUES TO US OCCUPATION OF OIL WELLS, HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN PRESENTED TO CONFERENCE. MOST MOF THESE EXPRESS HEALTHY RESPECT FOR NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES OF EMBARGO AND ESPOUSE THEORY THERE NO LONGER NEED FOR ACELERATION OF OIL EMBARGO SINCE DATE AND PLACE OF PEACE CONFERENCE (DECEMBER 19, GENEVA) HAVE ALREADY BEEN AGREED UPON. OTHERS (E.G., ALGERIANS) STATE EXTENDED AND ACCELERATED OIL EMBARGO MAY HARM EUROPEAN FRIENDS AND MAY BECOME COUNTER-

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PRODUCTIVE AS ISRAEL HAS ALRADY STARTED USING IT IN ITS ANTI-ARAB PROPAGANDA.
BUFFUM

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